

National Health and Medical Research Council

**ENABLING GRANT FUNDING SCHEME
FIRST ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

- In accordance with the NHMRC Deed of Agreement, a Progress Report must be submitted by the date advised by the NHMRC for each calendar year in which there were payments or a carry-forward of funds, except the final year when the Final Report form must be used.
- Progress Reports enable the NHMRC to assess whether satisfactory progress is being achieved.
- Please complete the survey at Section D for all funded projects to assist the NHMRC address National Research Priorities.
- All entries must be printed or typed.
- The report must be signed by the Chief Investigator A on behalf of all investigators and by the Institution's Responsible Officer.
- The signed original is to be submitted to the NHMRC at the following address:

NHMRC Progress Reports
Research Funding Schemes
Centre for Research Management
National Health and Medical Research Council

Mail: MDP33
GPO Box 1421
Canberra ACT 2601

Courier: Level 5
20 Allara Street
Canberra City ACT 2601

Address for electronic submission of completed form: enabling@nhmrc.gov.au

Note 1: An electronic version of completed form should be provided in addition to the original posted copy.

Note 2: Every page of attachment to this report should be dated, initialled by the CIA and clearly identified by the NHMRC Application ID number, Section of the report and corresponding question number (ie: 28 September 2006;(initial); ID: 354358; SECTION C, 3.1)

SECTION A - Administration

Grant Type	Enabling Grant
NHMRC Application ID	418033
Administering Institution	ANU
Chief Investigator A	Professor Robert Saint
Project Title	Australian <i>Drosophila</i> Biomedical Research Support Facility
Year Funding Commenced	2007

SECTION B – Overall Progress (No More Than One Page)**1. Please summarise the original objectives of the funded facility/activity (as specified in the original application)**

To establish a national research support facility that would provide specific and relevant services to lower the barriers that currently inhibit *Drosophila* research in Australia. These include; maintaining and distributing commonly used genetically defined *Drosophila* stocks; maintaining and distributing EST clones; providing a micro-injection service to generate custom transgenic stocks; creating a record of all stocks maintained throughout Australia; and co-ordinating and streamlining the importation of *Drosophila* stocks into Australia.

2. Indicate the progress to date in achieving facility/activity milestones and performance indicators (as specified in the original application).

The facility is already: co-ordinating and streamlining the importation of *Drosophila* stocks into Australia for most *Drosophila* labs; maintaining and distributing over 1300 genetically defined *Drosophila* stocks; maintaining and distributing EST clones; creating a record of stocks maintained throughout Australia; and we are currently training staff so that the micro-injection facility will be in place by the end of 2008. The facility's website is live, with information about the services provided readily available. Other forms of active promotion have commenced and there will be a strong emphasis on outreach to the wider medical research community. For example, information about the facility was given at the Lorne Cancer and Genome conferences earlier this year.

3. Have the time-lines for the facility/activity changed? If yes please provide details.

Yes. A Manager for the Facility was only appointed at the end of August 2007. Additionally, infrastructure support from the Research School of Biological Sciences, where the Facility is situated at the Australian National University, has also held up many aspects of the Facility's time-lines, specifically in the area of IT support (for example development of a website and database). Issues relating to plans for new buildings for the biological sciences also caused delays to the establishment of the facility.

4. Has the direction of the facility/activity changed (from that specified in the original application)? If so how?

No.

5. If satisfactory progress towards achieving the facility/activity milestones and performance indicators has not been achieved, please explain why this has occurred and how the issues are being addressed.

Progress has been slower than expected but not unsatisfactory since the appointment of the Manager in August. In the area of IT, external assistance has now been sought that will alleviate the problems encountered (although at a higher cost).

SECTION C – Governance and Access

The following questions are intended to assess compliance with the *NHMRC Enabling Grant Access to Facilities Policy* (available at www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/apply/granttype/enable/index.htm1)

1. General

1.1 Has an application form for access to the facilities/activities been developed and made available electronically?

YES/NO

If YES, please provide details:

An application form has been developed but not sent out or made available on the website as we are waiting for responses from the Management Committee and also computer login access to be developed. This should be available in April.

If NO, specify when the application form might be developed and made available electronically

1.2 Has a clear and transparent access policy which enables equitable access for all Australian researchers been put in place?

YES/NO

If YES, is this Access Policy readily available (including on the facility/activity internet site)?

Please attach the facility/activity Access Policy to this report.

The Access Policy has been written and will be made available on the website in April.

If NO, when might the Access Policy be available?

1.3 What rates (in AUD) apply to internal and external users of the facilities?

A charge of \$2,000 per annum for subscription to the Facility will be inclusive for all general services (stocks, EST clones and access to database). This amount will be reviewed annually by the management committee. Additional services for example the microinjection service will attract a per use payment. External users (i.e. people not subscribing but wishing to use services) will pay higher rates for all services and this will be negotiated on a case by case basis.

1.4 Have any limitations been placed on access (ie: limits on the type or amount of access)?

No.

1.5 Is the facility open to access from international or commercial researchers?

YES/NO

If YES, what arrangements are in place to ensure that international or commercial access does not in any way compromise the access of Australian researchers?

2. Management Committee

2.1 Has an appropriately constituted management committee been established to oversee applications for access to the facility/activity?

YES/NO

If YES:

(i) List names and titles/functions of committee members?

Chairman: Prof. Robert Saint (Chairman); Members: Prof Sharad Kumar, Prof Scott O'Neill, Assoc. Prof Rob Richards, Dr Gary Hime and Dr Helena Richardson; Independent member: Dr Edward Bertram from the Australian Phenomics Facility; Manager: Dr Narelle Tunstall

(ii) Which members are independent from the day to day running of the facilities/activities?

Prof Sharad Kumar, Prof Scott O'Neill, Assoc. Prof Rob Richards, Dr Gary Hime, Dr Helena Richardson and independent member Dr Edward Bertram.

(iii) What procedures are in place to manage potential conflicts of interest?

Independent member, Dr Edward Bertram, will mediate conflicts of interest. Dr Bertram has extensive experience at running a facility (the Australian Phenomics Facility).

If NO, please indicate when this will happen:

2.2 Has an independent dispute resolution or appeals process been established to handle any dispute that might arise over access to the facility/activity?

YES/NO

If YES, please provide details:

An Access Agreement and Policy is in place that should prevent most disputes from arising. In the event that a dispute does arise, the independent member will be involved to help resolve it.

If NO, please provide an approximate date for its establishment.

3. Governance

3.1 Has an independent body (an Advisory Board or similar structure) been put in place to oversee the facility/activity?

YES/NO

If YES:

(i) List names and titles/functions of the Broad members.

(ii) What are the terms of reference of the Advisory Board?

If NO, indicate the date for establishment of an independent body.

The management committee comprises many of the senior Australian biomedical researchers who use *Drosophila* as a model organism. It is felt that an additional Advisory Board is unnecessary. The Management Committee represent an adequate Advisory Board.

Note: Answer to this question should be supported by flowchart of governance structure.

4. Acknowledgement

4.1 Are researchers accessing the facility required to agree to acknowledge in their published work the contribution of the facility to research?

YES/NO

Please provide details including the list of facility users:

As part of the Access Agreement it is clearly stated that users are required to acknowledge the Facility for its contributions to published work.

4.2 Has suggested acknowledgement wording been developed for use by such researchers?

YES/NO

If YES, what is the acknowledgement wording?

“Services and/or stocks were provided by the Australian *Drosophila* Research Support Facility, www.ozdros.com”

4.3 Is a policy in place as to whether any Chief Investigators associated with this grant will be entitled to authorship of research arising from the use of the facilities or activities?

YES/NO

If YES, please provide details including a list of all journal articles:

In the Access Policy it states that there is no case for automatic authorship for CIs associated with this grant. An exception is made for investigators who provide significant input, to be merited on publications according to the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research.

4.4 Has NHMRC funding of the activity/facility been recognised in promotional material and on the activity/facilities' internet site?

YES/NO

If YES, please provide details:

Recognition of funding support via the NH&MRC Enabling Grant is located prominently on the website homepage and is noted on all promotional material (both the NH&MRC logo and wording).

5. Ethics**5.1 Please describe procedures that are in place to ensure that researchers using the facility have obtained ethics approval for the research.**

As part of the Access Agreement all laboratory PIs wishing to become members/users of the Facility have to show evidence of PC2/OGTR insectary certification so that stocks sent to these laboratories are maintained under the appropriate conditions/regulations. No other form of ethical approval is required for research using *Drosophila*.

6. Consumer Representation**6.1 Please provide details on consumer representative involvement in the facility/activity.**

Nearly all current Australian *Drosophila* labs/Pis will be partaking in the services provided by the Facility as members/users. Consumers are asked to give any feedback to the Manager of the Facility to ensure they are represented and have effective involvement in the future development of the Facility. This will ensure that the Facility will be effective in offering relevant services to the *Drosophila* community of Australian researchers.

Members of the committee are also users of the facility and this will ensure any decisions made by the committee will benefit consumers.

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SECTION D - Certification

I certify that:

- 1. all Chief Investigators agree that this report is an accurate representation of the progress to date of the funded project; and**
- 2. relevant Institutional Approvals have been maintained to date in accordance Clause 2.2 of the Deed of Agreement.**

Name of Chief Investigator A: Signature of Chief Investigator A 	Date /...../.....
Name of Head of Department or equivalent: Signature of Head of Department or equivalent 	Date /...../.....
Name of Responsible Officer or delegate: Signature of Responsible Officer or delegate 	Date /...../.....
Contact phone number of Responsible Officer or delegate	

SECTION E – Survey Of All Funded Projects Commencing In 2002

On 5 December 2002 the Prime Minister announced four national research priorities and their associated priority goals. Detailed descriptions of the research priorities can be found at http://www.dest.gov.au/priorities/goals_summary.htm.

Commonwealth agencies such as the NHMRC will be developing plans outlining how they propose to implement national research priorities and will submit them to Government by May 2003. Completing this survey will assist the NHMRC advise the Government on the best way to proceed to implement research priorities.

Please indicate in the following table if your research project addresses any of the following national research priorities, by entering a percentage of research relevant to a priority. The total percentage should not exceed 100% but may be less. If no priority is relevant tick the box for no applicable priority.

NATIONAL RESEARCH PRIORITIES	Percentage of research relevant to priority
AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE AUSTRALIA - <i>Transforming the way we use our land, water, mineral and energy resources through a better understanding of environmental systems and using new technologies</i> Water – a critical resource Transforming existing industries Overcoming soil loss, salinity and acidity Reducing and capturing emissions in transport and energy generation Sustainable use of Australia’s biodiversity Developing deep earth resources	
PROMOTING AND MAINTAINING GOOD HEALTH - <i>Promoting good health and preventing disease, particularly among young and older Australians</i> A healthy start to life Ageing well, ageing productively Preventive healthcare	50% 20%
FRONTIER TECHNOLOGIES FOR BUILDING AND TRANSFORMING AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIES - <i>Stimulating the growth of world-class Australian industries using innovative technologies developed from cutting-edge research</i> Breakthrough science Frontier technologies Advanced materials Smart information use	30%
SAFEGUARDING AUSTRALIA – <i>Safeguarding Australia from terrorism, crime, invasive diseases and pests, and securing our infrastructure, particularly with respect to our digital systems</i> Critical Infrastructure Protecting Australia From Invasive diseases and pests Protecting Australia from terrorism and crime Transformational defence technologies	
NO APPLICABLE PRIORITY	